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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/626,347	07/26/2000	Albert Henricus Franciscus de Heer	GDT1P001	8436

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BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP
P.O. BOX 778
BERKELEY, CA 94704-0778

EXAMINER

KINDRED, ALFORD W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/626,347

Applicant(s)

DE HEER ET AL.

Examiner

Alford W. Kindred

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 + 3
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communication: application filed on 07/26/2000.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Povilus, US# 5,740,425.

As per claim 1, **Povilus** teaches "at least one class definition, each class definition . . . associated categories . . ." (see abstract – i.e. "defining classes of product groupings . . .") "a plurality of category definitions . . . attribute group . . ." (see col. 54, lines 46-66) "a plurality of attribute group definitions, each . . . having an associated possible value list that identifies . . ." (see col. 14, lines 57-67, whereas Povilus' teachings of "characteristics that differentiate each class . . . grouping . . .", clearly teaches group definitions having a value list that identifies values as indicated in applicant's claim language).

As per claim 2, **Povilus** teaches “a plurality of possible unit lists each possible . . .” (see col. 13, lines 34-67 and col. 14, lines 1-24, whereas Povilus’ “block . . .”, is equivalent to applicant use of the term “unit”).

As per claims 3-4, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 1-2 and are similarly rejected including the following:

--**Povilus** teach “possible value list is combined with each one . . . a normalized value” (see col. 19, lines 15-27).

As per claim 5, **Povilus** teaches attributes is associated with a data capture priority indicator that assigns priorities . . .” (see col. 14, lines 64, whereas Povilus’ inheritance of block with attributes incorporate an order or priority of attributes associated with the different blocks, therefore teach attributes with a priority that assigns priorities as taught by the applicant above).

As per claim 6, **Povilus** teaches “a possible countries table specifying one or more countries that are selectable as countries for which a product is adapted for sale” (see figure 19—sheet 14 of 38 and col. 19-20, lines 57-67, and 1-30 respectively; whereas Povilus’ table clearly has placeholders for variable information (i.e. countries) that are selectable with an sale element attached, as indicated by the applicant’s claim language above.

As per claim 7, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 6 and is similarly rejected including the following:

--**Povilus** teaches "platforms that are compatible with a specific product" (see col. 19, lines 24-67).

As per claim 8, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

--**Povilus** teaches "a plurality of manufacturer SKUs . . . SKU system . . ." (see col. 6, lines 47-67).

As per claim 9, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 2-3 and are similarly rejected including the following:

As per claim 10, **Povilus** teaches "a customer mapping table that maps each system SKU to a customer . . ." (see col. 22, lines 20-67).

As per claim 11, **Povilus** teaches "a category identifier associated with each one of the plurality of products . . . corresponding product" (see col. 3, lines 8-54).

As per claim 12, **Povilus** teaches "a manufacturer product description associated with each one of the . . . describing standard features of the associated product" (see col. 51, LINES 34-67).

As per claim 13, **Povilus** teaches "an image table including link to one or more images illustrating the plurality of products . . ." (see col. 26, lines 16-50).

As per claim 14, **Povilus** teaches "a marketing description for selected . . . products" (see col. 33, lines 55-67 and col. 34, lines 5-25).

As per claims 15-16, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 6-7 and are similarly rejected.

Art Unit: 2172

As per claim 17, **Povilus** teaches "a product compatibility table including platform compatibility . . ." (see col. 29, lines 45-67 and col. 30, lines 30-56).

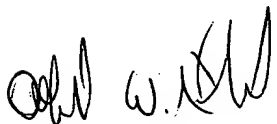
Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US# 2001/0010046 A1; US# 6,202,070 B1; US# 2002/0040359.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alford W. Kindred whose telephone number is 703-305-3802. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 703-305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



Alford W. Kindred
Patent Examiner
Tech Ctr. 2100
April 24, 2003